

# SIS Pilot Project Overview



Behavioral  
Health  
Division

## Background

The Wyoming Department of Health Behavioral Health Division (BHD) in collaboration with the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) is exploring the *Supports Intensity Scale* (SIS) assessment by doing a pilot project. This assessment can be used to more accurately measure and plan for the support needs of waiver participants. The SIS emphasizes participant abilities, rather than deficiencies, and asks what supports a participant needs to live a fulfilling life within the civic community. During the new waiver redesign, the citizen stakeholder team recommended that the SIS be piloted to understand the strengths of the tool in determining accurate support needs.

## Goal of Pilot

The Division's immediate goal is to compare the SIS assessment with the *Inventory for Client and Agency Planning* (ICAP) assessment and determine the more accurate and comprehensive of the two measures for both waiver providers and BHD. BHD wants to provide the most valid and reliable tool of measurement for a participant's assessed needs with the hope of possibly improving the distribution of public funding according to individual assessed need, improving the services and supports planning process, and improving the and training goals and outcomes for participants. We also want to improve and promote a culture that emphasizes abilities, not deficiencies.

## What it will take to make the pilot successful

- ✚ Participants, Guardians, and plan of care teams participating in the SIS interview process. Each SIS assessment takes about 1.5 to 2 hours with a team of people who know the participant well.
- ✚ Having team members that know the participant's unique skills and abilities and understand how the participant can flourish in the community with the right supports.
- ✚ Consistent and professionally trained interviewers at WIND, trained by the makers of the SIS at the American Association on Intellectual Disabilities (AAIDD). WIND, who have been doing ICAPs for the Division for over 10 years have been trained by AAIDD to complete the SIS assessments in an objective, professional manner.
- ✚ Valid data and information collected during the SIS assessment.

## FAQs

### What are the benefits of the SIS?

The SIS focuses on the amount of support and assistance that a person needs to accomplish every day community living activities. It is a nationally recognized valid and reliable assessment tool developed by a respected independent organization, AAIDD. It leads to better person-centered planning to determine the goals and aspirations of the participant not his/her limitations.

### Who will do the assessment?

WIND at the University of Wyoming, our current ICAP contractor, will complete these assessments. The interviewers with WIND will use contacts provided by the case manager to conduct the in-person interviews for the assessment. BHD will need case managers to gather contact information on all participants through a signed consent form, which they will upload to the Electronic Medicaid Waiver System (EMWS).

### Who will be selected to be in the pilot?

The Division will choose a random sample of waiver participants ages 21 and older from around the state. A random sample will be done with a 95% Confidence interval  $\pm$  a 5% margin of error. The random sample will be completed twice, once in FY 15 and once in FY16. Each sample will be analyzed by a team at the Department.

### What can you tell me about the interview and questions asked?

The interviewer will ask questions about supports needed at home, in the community, with friends and at school or work, focusing on protection and advocacy skills and essential medical and behavioral supports. The interviewer will want to know the type of support needed (monitor, prompt or physical assist), how often support is needed (weekly, daily, hourly), and how much support is needed (total time per day).

For questions on the SIS pilot, contact  
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